

Human rights concerns

The decision has attracted much commentary and criticism, particularly from civil rights organizations, on the basis that it is a major infringement to human rights and that too much power is being given to large organizations.

It is certainly a blow to animal rights groups, but, because of the factual discretion remaining (i.e. each case must be judged on its own merits), it is highly unlikely to open the floodgates to wide-ranging injunctions being granted to protect research organizations and corporate companies against groups of protesters. The courts overarching aim is still to balance the rights of researchers against the civil liberties of protesters. They are likely to restrict the approach taken in the *University of Oxford* case to a sufficiently serious situation (i.e. this approach will only be accepted for significant cases of harassment).

A company is unlikely to be granted a blanket injunction protecting it – and everyone associated with it – from a group of protesters. It will still have to link particular individuals to specific incidents of harassment.

Nonetheless, after the decisions in *Daiichi* and *Tuppen*, it marks another significant step in the development of the law surrounding harassment and is a potential boost to organizations looking to protect their employees, their research and their business from the illegal activities of animal rights activists.

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Erratum

In the 15th June 2005 issue of *Drug Discovery Today* (Vol.10, No. 12, p. 808), in the article entitled *Phage therapy: an attractive option for dealing with antibiotic-resistant bacterial infections* by Dr Alexander Sulakvelidze, we published an erroneous sentence 'Lytic bacteriophages (phages, for short) – that is, viruses that infect and kill bacteria – were discovered independently by Felix d'Herelle and Edward Twort in 1915 and 1917, respectively.' This should have read 'Lytic bacteriophages (phages, for short) – that is, viruses that infect and kill bacteria – were discovered independently by Frederick Twort and Felix d'Herelle in 1915 and 1917, respectively.' Additionally, the title became truncated, omitting the final word 'infections'. The journal's editorial and production team acknowledges entire responsibility for this error and apologizes to the author and reader for any confusion caused.

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